GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1167
ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008
SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION
Acharia Shri Basudeb;Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is capable of producing around five trillion kilowatts of solar energy as reported in The Hindu dated 24 August,2008;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a solar energy mission to promote/popularise the use of solar energy in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether the Government has received proposals from any foreign country regarding solar power generation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY(SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR)

(a)&(b): The amount of solar energy incident over the land area of the country is around five trillion kilowatt hour.The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing schemes on promotion of solar energy in the country. A total of 4.02 lakh solar home lights, 6.7 lakh solar lanterns,70,500 solar street lights,7148 solar pumps,5 MWp off-grid and grid connected PV power plants, 2.45 million sq. mtr solar thermal collector area and 6.2 lakh solar cookers have been installed in the country.In addition,around 8,000 remote villages and hamlets have been supported for electrification illumination with solar energy systems.However,the high initial cost of solar energy systems is currently a barrier in large scale utilization.

(c) & (d): The National Action Plan on Climate Change has proposed to develop solar energy in the country by setting up a Solar Mission. The details of the solar mission have not been finalized as yet.

(e) & (f): No firm proposal has been received by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for setting up of solar power generation plants from any foreign country as yet.